



June 5, 2024

Jake Berg
Canadian Honey Council (CHC Chair)
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Subject: Suspension of honey bee imports from Ukraine into Canada

Dear Mr Berg,

This letter is to provide you with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)'s decision regarding honey bee imports from Ukraine for the 2024 import season.

In January 2024, the CFIA sent a questionnaire to Ukraine's Competent Authority (CA) to gather updated information on the honey bee industry in Ukraine and its *Tropilaelaps sp.* - free status. This process followed that proposed by the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) *Handbook for Import Risk Analysis of Animals and Animal Products*. Based on the information collected, the CFIA could not conclude that *Tropilaelaps* mites are completely absent from Ukraine and it was determined that current import conditions would not provide sufficient controls to mitigate against the potential entry of *Tropilaelaps* into Canada by way of the import of packaged bees and queens from Ukraine. Consequently, the CFIA has decided to suspend all imports of honey bee queens and packages from Ukraine for 2024.

The CFIA's mandate under the *Health of Animals Act* is to help protect Canadian animal health, which includes the health of the Canadian honey bee population. Restrictions for importing bees into Canada are in place to help protect this population. *Tropilaelaps sp.* is an emerging pest that is considered a pest of concern to honey bees throughout the world. The CFIA has been closely monitoring the global progression of *Tropilaelaps* mites. *Tropilaelaps* mite is a listed pest with the WOAH and has never been detected in North America.

The CFIA has and continues to put significant efforts into assessing the potential of new approved sources of bee packages and queen bees internationally, on a scientifically-approved basis. The CFIA will continue to communicate with the CA of Ukraine and looks forward to reviewing any additional scientific data which may substantiate Ukraine's *Tropilaelaps sp.* - free claim and support the resumption of honey bee imports. The CFIA may reassess its decision for the 2025 import season if the Ukrainian Veterinary CA can provide sufficient new scientific information that would merit reevaluation.

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Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr Suminder Sawhney, DVM, MVSc, PhD
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